

DATES & DATA

February 28

Alzheimer's support group meets: The Clear Lake Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Group will meet at 7:30 p.m. in the first floor conference room, St. John Hospital West building, Nassau Bay. For more information contact Nancy Malley at (281) 480-8917 or John Gouveia at (281) 280-8517.

Modelers meet: The Galveston Bay Area Scale Modelers Association will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the House of Prayer Lutheran Church. For additional information call John Rivers at x41108.

February 29

Space workshop: Lockheed Martin Astronautics will host a Human Space Transportation and Exploration Workshop February 29 through March 1 at Moody Gardens Hotel, Galveston. For details visit <http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/aiaa/hstew.html>.

March 1

Spaceteam Toastmasters meet: The Spaceteam Toastmasters will meet at 11:30 a.m. March 1, 8, 15, 22 and 29 at United Space Alliance, 600 Gemini. For more information contact Patricia Blackwell at (281) 280-6863.

March 2

Communicators meet: The Clear Lake Communicators, a Toastmasters International club, will meet March 2, 9, 16, 23 and 30 at 11:30 a.m. Please note the new meeting location at Wyle Laboratories, 1100 Hercules, Suite 305. For details contact Allen Prescott at (281) 282-3281 or Richard Lehman at (281) 280-6557.

Warning System Test: The site-wide Employee Warning System will perform its monthly audio test at noon. For additional information contact Bob Gaffney at x34249.

OUT&ABOUT ★



JSC Radio Control Club members hold some of their recently built model planes. Shown, left to right, are Brendon Montz, Herman Burton, Don White, and Ron Madsen. The next club meeting will be March 9 at 7 p.m. at the Clear Lake Park building. For more information contact Bill Langdoc at x35970.

March 7

ASQ meets: The Bay Area section of the American Society for Quality will meet at 6 p.m. at the Ramada King's Inn on NASA Road 1. No reservations are required. For details contact Ann Dorris at x38620.

March 8

IAAP meets: The Clear Lake/NASA Chapter of the International Association of Administrative Professionals will meet at 5:30 p.m. March 8 and April 12 at Bay Oaks Country Club. Cost is \$16. For details contact Tami Barbour at (281) 488-0055, x238.

March 9

★ **Airplane club meets:** The Radio Control Airplane Club will meet at 7 p.m. at the Clear Lake Park building. For more details contact Bill Langdoc at x35970.

MAES meets: The Society of Mexican-American Engineers and Scientists will meet at 11:30 a.m. in Bldg. 16, Rm. 111. For more information contact George Salazar at x30162.

SSQ presentation: The Society for Software Quality presents "Licensure as a Professional Engineer in Software Engineering" by Dr. Chuck Hoffman of Barrios Technology. The brown bag will be at noon at Barrios Technology, 2525 Bay Area Blvd., Suite 300. For reservations contact Renne Peterson at 281-282-4392 by March 6.

March 10

Astronomers meet: The JSC Astronomical Society will meet at 7:30 p.m. at the Center for Advanced Space Studies, 3600 Bay Area Blvd. For more information contact Chuck Shaw at x35416.

March 12

Westside NSS meets: The "Westside" group of the Clear Lake area chapter of the National Space Society will meet at 2 p.m. at Silicon Graphics, 11490 Westheimer, Suite 100. For more information contact Murray Clark at (281) 367-2227.

NASA BRIEFS

CALIFORNIA FIRM SELECTED TO DEVELOP AIRCRAFT TECHNOLOGIES

In an effort to increase the research capabilities of high-altitude Earth science missions, NASA's Dryden Flight Research Center has selected General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, Inc., (GA-ASI) San Diego, Calif., to begin negotiations to demonstrate technologies expanding the capabilities of uninhabited aerial vehicles.

The task under NASA's Environmental Research Aircraft and Sensor Technology (ERAST) program jointly sponsored research agreement is to expand technical performance to meet the scientific requirements and to demonstrate operational capabilities required by the emerging uninhabited aerial vehicle (UAV) industry. GA-ASI will develop the new Predator B series of UAV, including an enlarged and upgraded version, to meet these requirements. As joint partners in the project, GA-ASI will contribute \$8 million and NASA's Office of Aero-Space Technology will invest more than \$10 million.

The ERAST program has operated for approximately six years with a number of industry partners to develop UAV capabilities. The program has concentrated on developing aerodynamic propulsion and control system technologies for future high-altitude, long-endurance UAVs designed for government or commercial uses.

BREAST CANCER SCREENING AID CLEARED FOR DIAGNOSTIC USE

The war against breast cancer has a new weapon, thanks to an advanced sensor developed at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

The device, called the BioScan Syste, was developed by OmniCorder Technologies, Inc., Stony Brook, NY. OmniCorder received clearance to market the system from the Food and Drug Administration in December 1999.

Studies have determined that cancer cells exude nitric oxide. This causes changes in blood flow in tissue surrounding cancer that can be detected by the sensor. The BioScan System is sensitive to temperature changes of less than .027 degree Fahrenheit and has a speed of more than 200 frames per second. It causes no discomfort to the patient and uses no ionizing radiation.

"Clearance for use of this noninvasive diagnostic tool is an important milestone for us," said OmniCorder President and CEO Mark Fauci, who noted that the device has also been cleared to be marketed for other applications.

The sensor, called the Quantum Well Infrared Photodetector, was invented by Dr. Sarath Gunapala, principal engineer of JPL's device research and applications section. The digital sensor detects the infrared energy emitted from the body, thus "seeing" the minute differences associated with blood flow changes. Earlier versions of QWIP had potential applications, such as locating hot spots during fires and observing volcanoes.

"It is a great pleasure to see something I invented being used for public benefit," said Gunapala, "especially in medicine and even more so in the early detection of cancer."

It's rodeo time again

Laura Vincent gets a roping lesson from Houston Rodeo Speaker Committee members Dick Hudgins and Sparkles the Clown outside Bldg. 3, at right. The Texas Independence Trail Riders made their way through JSC February 8 on their way to the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo. The JSC Circle Riders and Precinct 8 mounted patrol met them as they entered the center, below.



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SPACE CENTER **Roundup**

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